

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are currently pending. With this Response, Applicants have amended Claims 1-3, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 16-19, and cancelled Claim 15 without prejudice or disclaimer. The cancellation of the claims are expressed in the detailed listing above.

Amendment to Claims

Applicants have amended Claims 1-3, 7, 10, 11, 14, 17, and 19 to correct various minor typographical errors and informalities. These amendments were not made to distinguish over the prior art of record or for other reasons related to patentability.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner states, “The claim is indefinite since there is period placed in the middle of the present claim 7 located at page 20, line 5.”

Applicants have amended Claim 7 to correct this minor informality. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should now be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 15-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bonsall et al. (USPN 5,262,964).

Applicants have cancelled Claim 15 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the rejection of this claim.

Claims 16 and 18 have been amended to depend from Claim 19, which should now be in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 1-6 and 8-14 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 17 and 19-21 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but, according to the Examiner, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants have rewritten Claims 17 and 19 in independent form, and thus these claims should not be in condition for allowance. Because Claims 20 and 21 depend from Claim 19 and include further limitations, these claims should also be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7428.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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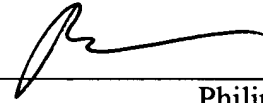
Date

Richard A. Park

Signature

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Philip W. Woo

Attorney of Record

Registration No. 39,880

PWW/rp

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SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
555 California Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94104-1715